

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 140 AS IT CELEBRATES MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF SCOUTING

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 140 of Buffalo Grove in the northern Illinois district that I represent. These passionate young Scouts and their Scout Masters are celebrating more than 50 years of high adventure and activities.

Drawing from Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Long Grove, Wheeling and more, Troop 140 is one of the largest and most active in all of the Northwest Suburban Council. These Scouts have climbed mountains, explored caves and hiked all terrain imaginable.

Under the direction of their Scout Leadership (Scout Master Tim Meinholz and Committee Chair Kathy Daloia), these young Scouts have experienced outdoor adventures far beyond the average suburban childhood. In addition to their adventures, the Scouts also have a commitment to excellence second to none.

The goal of every first-year Scout is to achieve First Class rank by the end of year one. Older Scouts focus on merit badges, and the Troop has honored more than 150 Eagle Scouts in total.

All the while, Troop 140 upholds Scout values, builds character, develops good citizens and teaches valuable, lifelong skills. Troop 140 is certainly a standout among excellence, and I am impressed and inspired by its achievements. To see so many young Scouts taking part gives me great hope for the future.

Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 140 of Buffalo Grove on more than 50 years of excellence.

H.R. 357, THE GI TUITION
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2013

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 3, 2014, I was unavoidably detained due to weather and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on House Vote No. 33, on passage of H.R. 357, the GI Tuition Fairness Act of 2013.

For over 50 years, Congress has recognized that one of the greatest sacrifices by our service members is that their military service often prevents them from attending school and attaining higher levels of education. To address this sacrifice, our country has made educational benefits a cornerstone of military service.

The GI Tuition Fairness Act of 2013 establishes in-state tuition rates for all veterans at-

tending college on the Post 9/11 GI bill and would ensure that they are not punished for faithfully fulfilling their military service obligations away from their original state of residency. Due to the nature of military service, our veterans often have a hard time establishing residency for purposes of obtaining in-state tuition. This bill takes a stand to guarantee in-state tuition for student veterans regardless of residency status. These men and women should not be forced into more expensive college programs just because public universities do not offer the flexibility in their residency requirements. Our veterans have made incomparable sacrifices, and they deserve all the backlines of support we can give them.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the passage of H.R. 357, and would like to set the record straight that if I were able to cast my vote, it would have been a proud "yea."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
REV. PAMELA CAHOON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today and honor the Rev. Pamela Cahoon on the occasion of her retirement. The Rev. Cahoon has led for more than 30 years Christians Reaching Out to Society (C.R.O.S.) Ministries, as its executive director.

Her passion to end hunger began many years ago, when, as a child she noticed that some of her classmates did not have the benefit of a simple brown bag lunch. She persuaded her own mother to start packing extra lunches to share with classmates who had none of their own.

Today, her family and many others have joined her efforts to ensure that no one goes hungry. In one year alone, C.R.O.S. Ministries, under the Rev. Cahoon's leadership, provided emergency food to more than 40,000 individuals, more than 40 percent of whom were children; served 85,000 meals to hungry families in the ministries' kitchens; distributed 28,000 afterschool snacks to hungry kids; and sent home 16,000 brown bag lunches to ward off hunger for families during the long weekends.

C.R.O.S. Ministries also led efforts to gather food, salvaging more than 218,000 pounds of fresh produce from harvested fields, and then distributed the food to 100 nonprofit agencies across the county.

Although the Rev. Cahoon is retiring, I am sure that she will continue to be involved in local efforts to help people in need for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Rev. Pamela Cahoon is someone with whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her selfless efforts to end hunger, and wish her the very best on her retirement.

HONORING ROBERT BOOKER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Robert Booker is a former Tennessee State Legislator and longtime columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel. He is a man for whom I have very great respect.

His weekly column is usually devoted to the history of the African-American community in and around my hometown of Knoxville. Because I love history, and especially that about East Tennessee, I almost always enjoy his columns. They are interesting, informative and well-written and thoroughly researched.

His column of February 4th was one I particularly enjoyed. He wrote about three activist ministers in Knoxville, all of whom I have known and respected: Rev. Harold Middlebrook, Rev. William T. Crutcher, and Rev. Frank Gordon.

I was very proud of my late father for many reasons, but near the top to me was his leadership while Mayor of Knoxville to help peacefully integrate our City. He was good friends and worked closely with Rev. Crutcher and Rev. Gordon and in later years with Rev. Middlebrook.

When I practiced law in Knoxville, I represented Rev. Crutcher's church, Mount Olive Baptist. He was a great man, and his widow is still a wonderful, sweet woman.

Rev. Middlebrook stayed in our family home in Alexandria, Virginia, when he came to be my guest at the joint session of Congress honoring Nelson Mandela.

I am thankful that Knoxville has a man like Robert Booker who does so much to honor forgotten leaders from our past.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD Mr. Booker's recent column about activist preachers.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Feb. 4, 2014]

MIDDLEBROOK IN LINE OF ACTIVIST PREACHERS
(By Robert Booker)

When my friend the Rev. Harold Middlebrook retired as senior pastor of Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, I reflected on his civic activities and compared them to those of other pastors who made a difference during the past 149 years. He has shouted for justice in a sea of silence. He has stood for equality while others just sat by. He has preached against street violence as others gave lip service. He has led the battle many times to help save Knoxville College as others failed to rally their troops.

Indeed, Middlebrook is a rare breed who talks the talk, walks the walk and gets things done. He knows how to put on a good show, but it is not just an act. He can preach up a storm, but the fallout is to irrigate, fertilize and cultivate minds and hearts to bring about man's humanity to man.

We have a number of excellent preachers today who can stir up their congregations

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

with great messages. Some of them successfully push pet projects, but it has not been easy for them to capture a mass following across the city as has Middlebrook.

Perhaps the first one to have that kind of influence and reverence was the Rev. George Washington LeVere, who came here as pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church on Feb. 9, 1866. He had been a chaplain in the 29th Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry. Having been born and educated in Brooklyn, N.Y., he came here ready to practice what he would preach.

In 1869 he organized the Shieldstown (LeVere) School on Linden Avenue, which provided the initial education for William H. Franklin, the first black graduate of Maryville College in 1880. LeVere was a charter member of the Meridian Lodge No. 4 of the Free and Accepted Masons. He served as their Grand Master. He helped organize the Colored Mechanics Association in 1871. He was pastor of Shiloh for 22 years.

Another giant in the fight for human dignity was the Rev. William T. Crutcher, who served as pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church for 54 years. He arrived there in 1935 and served until his death in 1989. He attended the Baptist World Alliance in London, England, in 1955 and went on a month-long preaching mission to Africa in 1973.

He was a true fighter for justice here in Knoxville. In 1948 he took the lead in getting the city of Knoxville to make Chilhowee Park available to blacks one day a week instead of one day a year. He also led the effort to allow blacks to play golf at the city-owned Whittle Springs Golf Course. In the early 1960s Crutcher was a co-chair of the Associated Council for Full Citizenship, which led to the desegregation of lunch counters and movie theaters. Numerous threats were made on his life.

The Rev. Frank Gordon became pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in 1952 and he, too, was a trailblazer in many activities outside his church. He taught Bible and religious history at Knoxville College from 1953 to 1956 and was a candidate for the Knoxville Board of Education on two occasions. He was a member of the Mayor's Commission on Race Relations and a member of Gov. Frank Clement's State Commission on Race.

Gordon was president of the Knoxville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the state president of that organization, which helped integrate the school systems of all 95 Tennessee counties.

Middlebrook was not the first activist preacher in this city, but he has been one of the most successful ones in his undertakings. He has left a real legacy for those who choose to follow his lead.

H.R. 357, H.R. 3590, AND H.R. 3964

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize passage this week of three important pieces of legislation: H.R. 357, the G.I. Bill Tuition Fairness Act; H.R. 3590, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act; and H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act. Unfortunately, I was not able to vote on final passage of these important bills because of a death in my family and my attendance at the subsequent funeral.

The G.I. Bill Tuition Fairness Act is commonsense legislation for our veterans that will

lead to more affordable education opportunities when our men and women in uniform return from service.

The Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act is a bipartisan package of eight individual bills that will strengthen and preserve important outdoor traditions and some of our pristine natural treasures for American sportsmen, recreational enthusiasts and future generations. I am proud to have been a cosponsor of this bill.

H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act seeks to address the crisis that is taking place in California that has resulted from extreme drought and other challenges. I am supportive of measures that provide much needed relief to our farmers. Having said that, as I am a strong supporter of state water rights, I could not have supported this legislation without the inclusion of provision 501 which states these dire circumstances are unique to California and should not serve as a precedent for other states.

Finally, I want to address three quick items that came up during debate on H.R. 3590. The first is H. Amdt. 541, offered by Mr. HOLT, which would have allowed the Secretary to prevent hunting and fishing on public lands based on speculative climate change studies. Any proposals to limit hunting and fishing should be made by state fish and game agencies and local communities, not Washington bureaucrats. The second item is H. Amdt. 537 offered by Mr. DeFAZIO that would have undermined the bill, lead to frivolous lawsuits and the eventual closing of public lands for hunting and fishing. Clearly, this amendment is contradictory to the intent of the bill and would have had negative consequences. The third and final issue that came up during debate on H.R. 3590 was in relation to condors and lead ammo. I would encourage legislators who opposed the bill based on this premise to visit my home state of Arizona where they have put forth a voluntary program that is having fantastic results and could serve as a model for the country on how to address this issue.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in support of these three important bills with a "yea" vote on rollcall Numbers 33, 41 and 50. I would have opposed the two dangerous amendments and voted "nay" on rollcall numbers 38 and 39.

HONORING AND SUPPORTING
TEAM USA AT THE XXII OLYMPIC
WINTER GAMES

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Team USA, the United States Olympic Committee, and all of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Today, the 22nd Olympic Winter Games will begin in Sochi, Russia. They will be followed shortly afterwards by the 11th Paralympic Winter Games. Over 200 American athletes will be representing our nation at the Olympics, participating in 15 events.

Many of these athletes have worked all their lives for the honor of representing their nation at the highest level. All of them will captivate

and inspire us all through friendly competition, sportsmanship, solidarity, and fair play. From the thrill of downhill skiing to the quiet Zen of curling, Olympians from across the globe will kindle the Olympic Spirit as they compete alongside other world-class athletes.

I am especially pleased that my home state of Rhode Island is represented in Pairs Figure Skating by Marissa Castelli of Cranston. It has been over a quarter century since Team USA was on the medal platform for Pairs Skating, but we have a great chance of returning this year. We are all immensely proud of her accomplishments and we look forward to cheering on Marissa, her partner Simon Shnapir, and all the other members of Team USA.

In addition to our Olympic athletes, I would like to take a moment to commend America's Paralympians. Although they might not get the same television coverage as the Olympics, the Paralympics showcases some of the finest talent this country has to offer. Some of these world-class athletes are also wounded warriors who served in our military and fought for our country with honor and distinction. I have been pleased to work with the U.S. Olympic Committee and my Congressional colleagues to provide adaptive sports programs to injured service members, helping to speed their recovery time, bolster their self-confidence, and vastly improve their quality of life.

I would also like to recognize the courage of all the LGBT athletes participating in these Olympics. While I strongly oppose Russia's anti-gay legislation, I have every confidence that our athletes will display the same grace and dignity under pressure that has served them well in their quest for Olympic glory.

The Olympic movement is a testament to the power of international competition to unite us in common spirit and a reminder to all that we can achieve our dreams with courage and determination. I wish our Athletes well in the upcoming games, and thank the U.S. Olympic Committee for their continued dedication to achieving a better world through athletics.

IN HONOR OF 'THE BLUEGRASS
STORYTELLER'—MR. JAMES KING

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of 'The Bluegrass Storyteller'—Mr. James King, who was born in Martinsville, Virginia and grew up immersed in the rich musical tradition of Southwest Virginia's Carroll County. After 20 years of playing bluegrass music, Mr. King's album "Three Chords and the Truth" was nominated for the 2013 Grammy Awards in the category of Best Bluegrass Album.

Surrounded by talented musicians including his father Jim and his uncle Joe Edd, Mr. King first picked up a guitar when he was eight years old. Though he began by playing rock and roll, Mr. King returned to bluegrass as he entered his teen years.

Mr. King served our country in the Marines before moving to Delaware. He has said that the Stanley Brothers (of Dickenson County, Virginia), Dudley Connell, Jimmy Martin, and Ted Lundy (of Galax, Virginia) have been major influences in his career.

He has released numerous group and solo albums throughout the years, and his band was recognized in 1997 as Emerging Artist of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), Recorded Event of the Year by the IBMA for its self-titled 1997 debut, and was also nominated for IBMA's 1999 Song of the Year for "Bed by the Window."

On "Three Chords and the Truth," released in late September, Mr. King interprets classic country western songs like George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today" into the bluegrass format so characteristic of Mr. King. I commend Mr. James King for his hard work on this fine album and congratulate him for the recognition it has received. "Three Chords and the Truth" may not have been awarded a Grammy Award, but it has won the hearts of many music fans. I am optimistic that the talented Bluegrass Storyteller and his band will one day have their day in the sun.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 50. If my vote had been counted, I would have voted "yea" on passage of H.R. 3964.

HONORING JOHN WOOD, CEO OF SALLY CORP.

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Wood, CEO of Sally Corp., who was recently honored for his life work in the creation of amusement rides by being inducted into the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Hall of Fame.

Sally Corp., based in Jacksonville, is a prime example of the American dream come true. Started in a garage in 1977, the Sally Corp. creates dark ride attractions, bringing to life interactive experiences that go beyond the imagination. Ron Gustafson, chairman of the Hall of Fame and Archives Committee, said that John "revolutionized the attractions industry." He was able to take the staccato rides of old and create a story that leaves riders clamoring for more.

Thanks to John's devotion, Sally Corp. has continued to grow and profit, and their reach has extended across the globe. Sally Corp. is currently working on an animated musical attraction called the "White Tiger Show" in China and they have completed projects in both India and Australia.

It is truly an honor to have John Wood and Sally Corp. in the 4th Congressional District of Florida. Small business owners are the backbone of our nation and it gives me great pleasure to commend John for his outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and Members of the House of Representatives join me in this very special congressional salute to John Wood.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF RODNEY LEE KENDIG

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of Mr. Rodney Lee "Rod" Kendig. Mr. Kendig was a committed public servant and a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. All of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Rod Kendig was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and graduated from Newton High School in Newton, New Jersey. After finishing his high school studies, he received a degree from the College of Wooster and a graduate degree from the University of Maryland. In 1978, while working for the National Association of Counties in Washington, D.C., Mr. Kendig was hired as Escambia County Administrator, and he moved with his family to Pensacola, Florida.

After several successful years as Escambia County Administrator, Mr. Kendig continued his public service to the Northwest Florida community as City Manager for the City of Pensacola. The position of Pensacola City Manager was a particularly important position that helped set the agenda for the Pensacola City Council. During his nine years on the job, he oversaw a number of important local projects, including: the construction of a new airport terminal and control tower at Pensacola Airport, a large expansion of Pensacola's city limits, construction of the Vickery Community Center, and acquisition of the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum, amongst many other accomplishments. Mr. Kendig continued his success in the private sector, joining the local firm Baskerville-Donovan, where he was instrumental in facilitating plans to move the city's wastewater treatment plant out of downtown Pensacola.

Mr. Kendig was also committed to serving the community away from the job. Along with his wife Paula, he volunteered with the Children's Home Society, and they served as a foster family for dozens of local children. The Kendigs fell in love and adopted one of the foster babies with special needs. Mr. Kendig became a community leader and advocate for children's health and education issues, serving on the Arc Gateway Board of Directors, the State Partnership for School Readiness, and the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County. Mr. Kendig was also an avid reader and supporter of literacy and local libraries, and he was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Florida Public Library System.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Kendig was an exceptional public servant, loving family man, and a great community leader. His impact on Northwest Florida will never be forgotten. My wife Vicki and I send our prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Paula; mother, Jane; children, Kathy, Andrea, Adam, Christy, Chelsey, and Jacob; grandchildren, Jennifer, Melissa, Billy, Nina, Paul and AJ; great grandson, Grady; sister, Brenda; and the entire Kendig family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll Nos. 40 and 41. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll No. 40 and "nay" on roll No. 41.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 41 I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 3590.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING GEORGE W. KOCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of George W. Koch, who passed away on January 26, 2014, at the age of 87.

Mr. Koch spent more than 50 years in Washington, DC. After 6 years as manager of the Washington, DC office of Sears, Roebuck & Co., he took over as President and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) in 1966. During his 24 years with the GMA, he transformed the organization into a leading industry advocacy group. Major efforts during his tenure included the adoption of the Universal Product Code in 1974 and the development of tamper-resistant packaging in 1982. Mr. Koch became known for his passion, his work ethic and his strong sense of morality. In the late 1970s, the Washington Afro-American honored Mr. Koch for his personal efforts to combat wage-skimming at the Congressional Country Club from its minority wait staff.

After his retirement from the GMA, he became a partner at K&L Gates. He served on the Board of Directors for Borden Chemicals and Plastics, McCormick & Company, and the Watchdogs of the Treasury; the Advisory Council of the International Executive Service Corps; and the Board of Trustees for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. He also served as North American Counsel for the International Center for Companies of the Food Industry and as Congressional Advisor to the Transatlantic Policy Network.

In May of 2013, the Grocery Manufacturers Association chose to honor Mr. Koch with the first-ever George W. Koch Leadership in Public Policy Award, for his decades of service to the organization. This award is now given out annually to exemplary individuals.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank George W. Koch for his years of service, his tireless advocacy, and his exceptional moral character.

IN HONOR OF SOUTHWESTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EL SOL
MAGAZINE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Southwestern Community College student journalism publications. Southwestern College, in Chula Vista, California, is one of our region's premier journalism programs whereby students publish a newspaper and a magazine for the students and surrounding community members. With the journalism students' dedication, Southwestern College has asserted itself as one of the top college newspapers in the nation with their newspaper, *The Sun*. Additionally, these dedicated journalism students devoted off-time hours to design, create and publish a magazine, *El Sol*. They were also instrumental in finding the funding in order to publish their student magazine. Southwestern College has reason to be proud of their Journalism Department's accomplishments and the hard work and dedication of student advisor Max Branscomb, Ed.D., should also be recognized. As the recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists National Journalism Teacher of the Year award, Dr. Branscomb's dedication to the field of journalism is creating an environment whereby the results of his instruction are motivating students toward careers in journalism. In honor of Dr. Branscomb and the Southwestern College students in the Journalism Department, I do hereby recognize February 6, 2014, as the "Southwestern College Journalism Students Day" in the City of Chula Vista.

HONORING ALEXIS "LEXIE" KAMERMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexis "Lexie" Kamerman, a courageous and talented young woman who tragically lost her life in an Afghan terrorist attack on January 17th. Lexie was killed in a Kabul restaurant that was specifically targeted by the Taliban because of its popularity with westerners.

A 27-year-old Chicago native, Lexie was committed to rebuilding Afghanistan through education, particularly for young women and girls who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go to school. In her role as a Student Development Specialist at the American University of Afghanistan, Lexie worked to help the next generation of Afghan women take their place as leaders in society. Friends and family of Lexie point to her strength, fearlessness, and passion as key to her decision to serve.

Lexie grew up in Chicago, and graduated from the Latin School in 2004. She attended Knox College, where she was a fierce competitor on the water polo team. Lexie received her M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona.

Sadly, the American University of Afghanistan community lost another member during

the January 17th attack: political science professor Alexandros Petersen from Washington, DC. He was only 29. While both Lexie and Alexandros were far too young to be taken from us, their talent and passion for serving others, regardless of the potential dangers, are examples to which we should all aspire.

My deepest condolences go to the friends and family of Lexie Kamerman, particularly her parents, Jack and Alison.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS STEWART

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 5th on rollcall 38 for H.R. 3590 I inadvertently voted "yea" for the amendment instead of "nay." My intention was to vote against the measure.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL CATHY LUTZ

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Major General Cathy Lutz, the first female Major General of the Mississippi Air National Guard, who went to be with the Lord on January 18, 2014.

With over 30 years of military service, Major General Lutz broke "glass ceiling" barriers, while maintaining civility and humility. She lived her life in service to friends, family, and country and professed "military and nursing" the means in which she served God and man.

Called "one of our nation's premier advocates for better health care for . . . soldiers and servicemen," Major General Lutz coordinated retrieval efforts of wounded servicemen following the terrorist attack against the USS *Cole* and led a medical squadron based out of Saudi Arabia.

In all, Major General Lutz commanded three squadrons in the National Guard and received eight military awards, including the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements."

While serving the Mississippi Air National Guard, Major General Lutz involved herself in the Mississippi art community. She showed her work with the Mississippi Art Colony and established an art farm in Flora, MS, along with her husband, retired Major General William Lutz.

Mississippi lost a dear daughter with the death of Major General Cathy Lutz. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Mississippi, we recognize her life and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT
GEORGE'S ADVOCACY FOR RELI-
GIOUS FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit an excerpt from remarks made by my friend Dr. Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University and chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, upon receiving the John Leland Award from the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in December. In his statement, Dr. George succinctly spells out the different ways in which countries around the world undermine religious freedom, whether through hostility toward religions, sponsorship of radicalism, enforcement of unjust laws or failure to protect citizens against religious violence.

Today, religious freedom is in peril around the world. In his remarks, Dr. George admirably shows Americans what they can do to secure greater liberty for people of faith, and of no faith, who are in harm's way because of what they believe. We are privileged to live in a country where freedom of religion is constitutionally guaranteed—may we strive to secure this right for citizens of all countries.

ROBERT P. GEORGE, JOHN LELAND AWARD, SOUTHERN BAPTIST ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION, RAYBURN GOLD ROOM, WASHINGTON, DC, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 [EXCERPTS]

. . . So why *does* religious freedom matter? Why should promoting and defending it abroad, no less than honoring it at home, be a high priority for our country?

The way some people see it, the reason for respecting religious freedom is purely instrumental and self-interested. If you and I disagree in matters of religion, I should tolerate your beliefs and religious practices so that you will tolerate mine. Religious freedom, on this view, is not so much a moral or human right as it is a kind of mutual non-aggression pact.

It's not difficult to see the attraction of this view or to explain why some people hold it. A world in which each community lives in fear that another will seize power and oppress its practitioners is hardly an ideal state of affairs for any of them—except, of course, the group that happens to come out on top. But that is exactly what happens where there is little or no religious freedom protection. Everyone fears what will happen to their own group. And so the answer to the problem is clear. Each group tolerates the other groups so that it, too, will be tolerated.

But there's a problem with this view. The problem is not that it's in any way inaccurate or untrue. Instead, the problem is that it doesn't go far enough. It ignores the fact that at its core, religious freedom means something far deeper and more profound than people grudgingly tolerating each another in a kind of *modus vivendi*.

It means the right to be who we truly are as human beings. The fact is that as human beings, we are drawn to ponder life's deepest questions and seek meaningful, truthful answers. Where do we come from? What is our destiny? Is there a transcendent source of meaning and value? Is there a "higher law" that pulls us above personal interest in order to "do unto others as we would have them do unto us?"

No matter how these questions are answered, one thing is indisputable: Human beings can't stop asking them, and would be diminished precisely as human beings if they were to try to do so. And that suggests that the religious quest is a constitutive part of our humanity—an aspect of our flourishing as the kind of creatures we are, namely, rational, intelligent, and free actors.

And this, in turn, suggests that we must cherish and honor, preserve and protect, the right of persons to ask and answer these questions as best they can, and, within the broadest limits, to lead their lives with authenticity and integrity in line with their best judgments of conscience.

And so, both as individuals and together with others in community, religious freedom means the right to ponder life's origins, meaning and purpose; to explore the deepest questions about human nature, dignity, and destiny; to decide what is to be believed and not to be believed; and, within the limits of justice for all, to comply with what one conscientiously judges to be one's religious obligations—openly, peacefully, and without fear.

John Henry Newman once observed that "conscience has rights because it has duties." We honor the rights of conscience in matters of faith because people must be free to lead lives of authenticity and integrity by fulfilling what they believe to be their solemn duties.

But authenticity and integrity are directly threatened whenever there is coercion or compulsion in matters of faith or belief. Indeed, coercion does not produce genuine conviction, but pretense and lack of authenticity. Clearly, a coerced faith is no faith at all. Compulsion may cause a person to manifest the outward signs of belief or unbelief, but it cannot produce the interior acts of intellect and will that constitute genuine faith.

Therefore, it is essential that freedom of religion or belief include the right to hold any belief or none at all, to change one's beliefs and religious affiliation, to bear witness to these beliefs in public as well as private, and corporately as well as individually, and to act on one's religiously inspired convictions about justice and the common good in carrying out the duties of citizenship. And it is vital that religious liberty's full protections be extended to those whose answers to life's deepest questions reject belief in the transcendent.

Because the right to freedom of religion or belief is so central to human personhood, we would expect that in places where it is dishonored, societies would be less happy and secure. And according to a growing number of studies, that is precisely the case across the world.

These studies show that countries that protect religious liberty are more secure and stable than those that do not, and nations that trample on this freedom provide fertile ground for war and poverty, terror and radical movements.

In other words, not only do religious freedom abuses violate the core of our humanity, they do grave harm to the well-being of societies.

They do so politically—as religious freedom abuses are highly correlated with the absence of democracy and the presence of other human rights abuses.

They do so economically—as religious persecution destabilizes communities and marginalizes the persecuted, causing their talents and abilities to go unrealized, robbing a nation of added productivity, and reducing that nation's ability to fight poverty and create abundance for its citizens.

They do so morally—since wherever religious freedom is dishonored, the benefit of

religion in molding character is diminished, and with it, the self-discipline necessary to handle the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

And finally, they do so socially—since wherever religious freedom is abused, peace and security become ever more elusive.

For the United States, all of this has a direct bearing on our own security.

For example, of the four countries that hosted Osama bin Laden during his notorious life—Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Pakistan—each is an incubator of terrorism in the form of violent religious extremism, and all have perpetrated or tolerated repeated religious freedom violations.

And as we all know, the 9/11 attacks on our country were plotted in Afghanistan, which was run by the Taliban which originated in Pakistan, with 15 of the 19 attackers coming from Saudi Arabia.

In December of last year, the Institute for Economics and Peace, an Australian think tank, released a ranking of nations based on the number of terrorist attacks launched between 2002 and 2011. At the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, we consider seven of these countries—Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Somalia, Nigeria, and Russia—to be serious violators of religious liberty. . . .

Clearly, religious freedom matters greatly. And sadly, according to a recent Pew study, 75 percent of the world's people—more than 5 billion human beings—live in countries with governments that significantly restrict this fundamental right. Such restrictions range from burdensome rules and regulations on building houses of worship to detention and imprisonment, torture and murder.

. . . All of these abuses violate not just American standards of religious freedom, but international human rights standards and covenants as well.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, in Article 18, that:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Since 1966, the governments of 167 countries have signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a binding treaty with protections similar to Article 18.

Nations around the world also affirmed the 1981 Declaration on Religious Intolerance, and other regional bodies, such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, also confirm religious freedom as a fundamental liberty. . . .

As an independent, bipartisan, U.S. federal government advisory body, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is firmly committed to the human rights standards found in these documents.

As a key part of its mandate, USCIRF monitors religious freedom worldwide and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and to Congress.

Based on our monitoring of religious freedom conditions, we have seen a number of discernible patterns to religious persecution.

First, we have seen the following categories of religious freedom violations engaged in or tolerated by governments: state hostility; state sponsorship; state enforcement; and state failure.

The second pattern we have seen is that in every one of these categories, Christians are among the persecuted.

And a third pattern we've noted is the stubborn persistence of anti-Semitism worldwide, including in the nations of Western Europe, where it again appears to be on the rise.

As to the categories of religious freedom abuses I just mentioned, state hostility involves the government actively persecuting people or groups on account of their beliefs.

State sponsorship refers to the government actively promoting—and sometimes even exporting—ideas and propaganda, often of a violent, extremist nature, that include hostility to the religious freedom of others.

State enforcement refers to the government applying laws and statutes such as anti-blasphe-my codes to individuals, often members of religious minorities, thus violating freedom of expression as well as freedom of religion or belief.

And state failure means that the government is neglecting to take action to protect those whom others are targeting due to their beliefs, creating a climate of impunity in which religious minorities or dissenters are threatened, intimidated, or even attacked and killed.

When it comes to state hostility toward religions, one of the worst persecutors is Iran's theocratic regime. The Iranian government has executed people for "waging war against God," while relentlessly targeting reformers among the Shi'a Muslim majority, as well as religious minorities, including Sunni and Sufi Muslims, Bahai's, and Christians. The Iranian regime has also stirred up anti-Semitism and promoted Holocaust denial.

Regarding state sponsorship of radical ideology which targets the religious freedom of others, Saudi Arabia continues to export its own extremist interpretation of Sunni Islam through textbooks and other literature which teach hatred and even violence toward other religious groups.

Regarding state enforcement of laws and statutes that repress freedom of expression and religion, Egypt and Pakistan enforce anti-blasphe-my or anti-defamation codes, with religious minorities bearing the brunt of the enforcement.

Regarding state failure to protect religious freedom, the actions of the governments of Egypt and Pakistan exemplify those of nations which do not protect their citizens against religion-related violence. Ironically, both nations' enforcement of blasphemy codes fuels some of the worst violence by encouraging vigilantes to target perceived transgressors.

. . . In Egypt, since the fall of Hosni Mubarak, including the periods of time before, during, and after President Morsi's rule, the government has tolerated widespread abuses against religious minorities, including Coptic Orthodox and other Christians, and Bahai's, Shi'a Muslims, and dissident Sunni Muslims.

It has failed to make serious efforts to bring the perpetrators of violence to justice or to respond to virulent anti-Semitism in state-controlled media.

In Pakistan, the government's longtime failure to protect religious freedom was on brutal display in 2011 with the assassinations of Salmaan Taseer, a Muslim who was Governor of Punjab province, and Shahbaz Bhatti, a Christian who was Pakistan's Minister for Minority Affairs and a valiant religious freedom advocate.

Both officials were killed for opposing Pakistan's blasphemy law, which is used as a weapon of repression against Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

This year was clearly one of the worst for both Shi'a Muslims and for Christians in Pakistan, as attacks by extremists on these communities accelerated with impunity.

Clearly, impunity remains one of the world's most serious and growing religious freedom concerns and challenges. Across much of the world, there have been incidents of religiously-related violence which are not being addressed by investigations, trials, or punishments.

. . . And so, let me conclude by saying that for those of us who care about religious freedom, we have a job to do.

First and foremost, each of us as citizens needs to make the case to our fellow Americans on behalf of supporting religious freedom abroad. We need to explain why this matters for our country and for our world.

We must tell others the story about what is happening to victims of religious persecution around the world. We must not let them be forgotten or let their plight be ignored.

And then, as we increase our numbers on the ground, we can move Washington to do the right thing by supporting religious freedom. We must make it clear to those in public office that we expect them to honor religious freedom both at home and abroad, and that we intend to hold them electorally accountable if they fail to do that. We must insist that religious freedom be given the priority it is due under the International Religious Freedom Act in the conduct of our international diplomacy and foreign policy. Trade considerations are important; geopolitical strategic considerations are important; but religious freedom is important, too. It is not a second-class concern—at least not since IRFA became the law of the land. . . .

I have not spoken much today about domestic religious freedom issues. I do not want to close, however, without saying this: The first and most important way in which the President of the United States can promote religious freedom abroad is by honoring religious freedom here at home. Again, speaking for myself, and not on this occasion as Chairman of USCIRF, I call on President Obama to withdraw the HHS mandates that threaten religious freedom in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act—and to do so before being compelled to withdraw those mandates by the Supreme Court in the lawsuits now pending. Indeed, the administration should—across the board, at home and abroad—embrace a robust view of religious liberty, one going beyond the mere “freedom of worship”—one that respects the right of religious believers and religious institutions to honor the requirements of their consciences without governmental interference, except in those circumstances—mercifully rare in our own country—where restrictions on religious freedom are necessary to protect the religious freedom of others or to prevent violence or other intolerable harms. . . .

HONORING BEURT SERVAAS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Beurt SerVaas, a dedicated community leader and former president of the Indianapolis City-County Council.

Beurt SerVaas was an accomplished businessman and a devoted public servant who spent the better part of his life serving the people of Indianapolis. Dr. SerVaas was first elected to the Marion County Council in the early 1960s and became a chief architect of the Uni-Gov changes that consolidated parts of city and county government. Dr. SerVaas' distinguished business career included bringing the Saturday Evening Post to Indiana and rescuing several struggling businesses ranging from engine rebuilders to makers of cleaning products.

The state of Indiana and the city of Indianapolis have lost one of their most distin-

guished citizens and a dedicated civic leader. On a personal note, Dr. SerVaas was a friend and a supporter of mine, who could always be counted on for his gentle wisdom and smile.

Beurt SerVaas set an example to which we can all aspire. He was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to serving others and making his country and community better places to live. This included service in the United States Navy and the Central Intelligence Agency. His commitment to Indiana will be forever appreciated. I ask the residents of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping his wife Dr. Cory Jane SerVaas, daughters Joan, Amy, and Kristin, and his sons Eric and Paul, in their thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote number 38, the DeFazio Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 3590, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Acts of 2013, I was recorded as an “aye.” It was my intention to vote “no” on the amendment.

As an avid sportsman, I strongly oppose legislation that would threaten opportunities for recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting on our Nation's public lands.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERRILL BLUM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Merrill Blum upon his retirement from the Vietnam Veterans Association of the Cape and Islands.

Following his service in the United States Army, Mr. Blum found his true calling working for numerous veterans' services programs throughout Massachusetts, and his remarkable efforts were recognized by the Department of Labor as a model for the nation. His commitment to serving veterans brought him to work with the Vietnam Veterans Association of the Cape and Islands, focusing on projects such as the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project, Homelessness Prevention Council, and on my Advisory Commission on Veteran Services. Throughout his career Mr. Blum has demonstrated his true commitment to helping soldiers improve their lives once they return home. In finding his calling in life, Mr. Blum made a lasting impact on countless American heroes within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Merrill Blum upon his retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Blum for his service and commitment to our nation's veterans.

CONGRATULATING FLIR SYSTEMS, INC.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate FLIR Systems, Inc. on the launch of FLIR ONE, the first consumer-oriented thermal imaging system. Introduced on January 7, 2014, FLIR ONE is the first product of its kind that provides thermal imaging technology to consumers using a unique smart phone accessory case. This is a tremendous step toward making infrared technology accessible and affordable to the general public.

FLIR Systems, Inc. is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and marketing of sensor systems that enhance perception and awareness. Their technological innovations have a wide range of utility including aerial and ground surveillance, environmental monitoring, navigation and transportation safety.

The work of FLIR Systems, Inc. is not only positively impacting Central Florida by providing our community with jobs; their innovations are resonating around the world. With the global debut of FLIR ONE scheduled for Spring 2014, I wish FLIR Systems, Inc. continued success.

RECOGNIZING GO TO 2040 FOR RECEIVING THE EPA SMART GROWTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this week the Environmental Protection Agency recognized seven organizations from across the country that are working to ensure sustainable urban growth with the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. I am proud to recognize the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's GO TO 2040 initiative for receiving this honor.

GO TO 2040 focuses on sustainable prosperity—working within Chicago and around the world to cement the city's place as an economic and cultural center. By 2040 Chicago will need to accommodate up to 25 percent more residents. The plan addresses public transportation, community planning, government cooperation, and resource management to ensure that Chicago remains a vibrant and diverse city, with room for our communities to grow.

GO TO 2040 has four challenges for city and state government to consider—creating livable communities, maximizing the potential of human capital, ensuring efficient government, and promoting regional mobility. Those issues impact all major metropolitan communities, and this roadmap is an important step as we look to build a sustainable future for our cities.

GO TO 2040 is a leading example of the type of work that will preserve and improve our urban centers for generations to come. I am proud to recognize the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's work to keep our city great.

HONORING MR. TOM KAISER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Kaiser, a veteran and member of America's Greatest Generation. Tom is a resident of Delray Beach, Florida, and has helped more than 500 South Florida veterans receive government awards and medals for their military service.

Thanks to Tom's dedication, veterans who helped to liberate France in WWII regularly are presented the Legion of Honor in special ceremonies by France's Consuls General from Miami. One of the men receiving this prestigious award is a Holocaust survivor who, after making it out of France, moved to the United States and served America in the Korean War.

Aside from helping veterans, Tom has also been instrumental in getting 22 war monuments placed at Boynton Beach's Veteran's Park. There are monuments dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen, Korean War and other famous veterans and battles. Tom chairs the

Boynton Beach Veteran's Council. Together with Ray Carter, the city's Fire Chief, he recently unveiled a memorial to the victims of 9/11 at the park. Tom noted at the ceremony that, "it makes the park a history lesson, so that anytime of the year people can come and reflect."

A humble man, Tom would be reluctant to accept the title of hero, but that is what he is to all the veterans who have gotten the recognition they deserve due to his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the term Greatest Generation was created to describe Tom and others like him, who served our country so bravely. I am very pleased to honor him on this day.